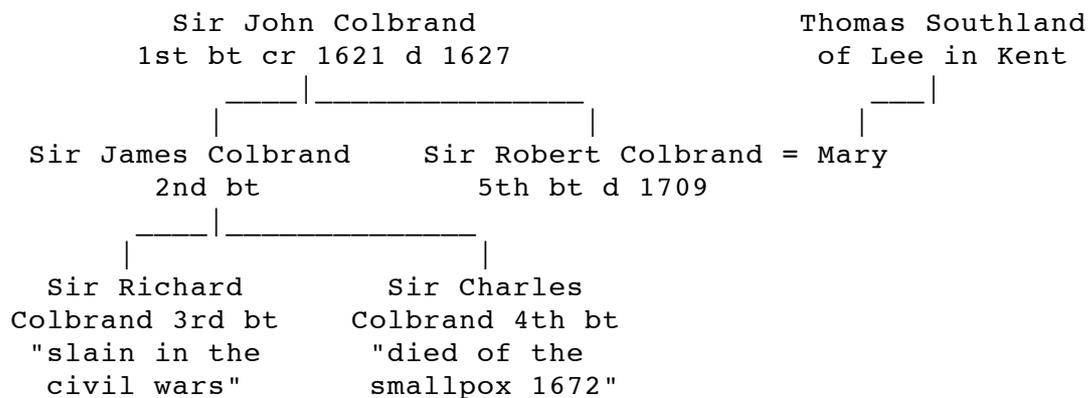


Thomas Southouse, not Thomas Southland, the author of "Love à la mode" (1663)

Histories of the English theatre, if they cover the 1660s and aim to be comprehensive, are likely to make some mention of a man named Thomas Southland, supposedly the author of a comedy called "Love à la mode", printed in 1663 (Wing S4771). (The author of this play is arguably also the author of a tragedy called "The ungrateful favourite", published anonymously in 1664 (U63); but that is a separate question, and I have nothing to say about it.) The attribution originated with Halliwell (1860); I think that it is demonstrably mistaken, and that the play was actually written by Thomas Southouse (1641–1676). In case anyone cares, one way or the other, I will try to say why.

The title page of "Love à la mode" identifies the author only as "a Person of HONOUR". The preface (which tells us that the play was written in 1660, "the yeare of his Majesties happy Restauration") is signed with the initials "T. S." Following the preface there are some congratulatory verses, contributed by three of the author's friends: they are signed respectively "R. Colbrand Baronet", "J. Kelynge Esquire", and "W. K." There seem to be no other clues that might help towards identifying the author.

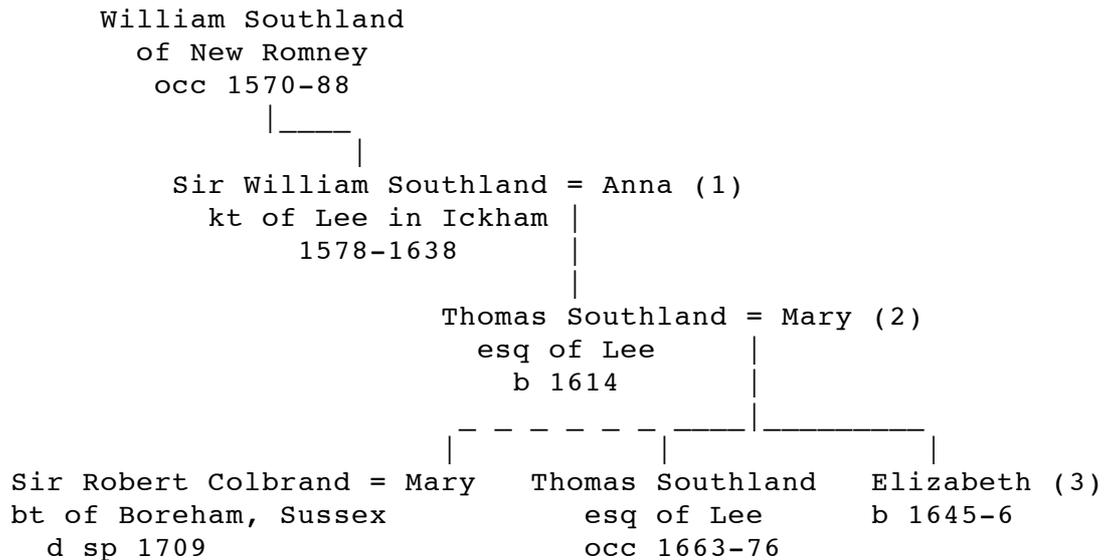
When Halliwell was compiling his "Dictionary of old English plays", he looked at a copy of "Love à la mode" and asked himself whether "T. S." was identifiable. Thinking that "R. Colbrand Baronet" might be the pointer he wanted, he looked up this name in some guide to the baronetage. Failing to find it there, he looked it up in a guide to the extinct baronetage – either Courthope (1835) or Burke and Burke (1838), the latter account, for this baronetcy at least, being just a reworded version of the former. There had, it turned out, only ever been one family of baronets by the name of Colbrand. The family home was at Boreham in Sussex, and this was how the title was reported to have descended (Courthope 1835:47):



The name of Sir Robert Colbrand's father-in-law is what caught Halliwell's attention: here was a man with the right initials connected with the Colbrand family. And the entry in his dictionary for "Love à la mode" thus ends with the following

sentence: "The author was probably T. Southland, a relative of Sir R. Colbrand, Bart." (Halliwell 1860:150).

The Southlands were a long-established Kent family, with roots in Romney Marsh. William Southland (occ 1570-88) became one of the most prominent inhabitants of New Romney. He was mayor four times, MP three times. A book which belonged to him (a manuscript copy of the custumal of New Romney), into which he wrote some family memoranda, is described by Cock (1940).



(1) Daughter of Michael Berisford esq of Squerries in Westerham.

(2) Daughter of Sir Thomas Springett kt "of Lewis in Com. Sussex" (Armytage 1906:153), "of the Broyle-Place in Sussex" (Robertson 1882:122).

(3) Elizabeth Southland married Arthur Kay, DD, rector of St Andrew's, Canterbury, and six-preacher of the cathedral. They had nine children together. He died in 1701, aged 60; she died in 1720, aged 74; they were both buried at St Andrew's (Cozens 1793:174, cf Berry 1830:317).

His second son, also named William, born in October 1578, went up in the world. By means unknown to me, he made enough money to establish himself as a country gentleman. He acquired an estate at Lee in Ickham, a well-bred wife, a coat of arms, and a knighthood (Hovenden 1898:158). (The arms were assigned to him in 1604 by William Camden, Clarenceux, says Hasted (9:173).) He and his wife had two sons and nine daughters; one son and six daughters survived him. Sir William Southland died on 1 May 1638, and was buried in the north transept of Ickham church, where a monument was erected for him (Cozens 1793:139-40, Robertson 1882:122) by his elder and only surviving son.

This son, Thomas Southland, inherited the family estate. He was born and baptized at Ickham in 1614 (Robertson 1882:122); he was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1632 (Foster 1889:197); he got married. Beyond that I know nothing about him, except that he sold off some

property in Headcorn which had come to him from his mother (Hasted 5:331). (Philipott (1659:183) was aware of this transaction, which happened, he says, "very lately"; otherwise he does not mention the Southlands.) There is a good chance of discovering additional information in the Ickham parish registers; but I cannot do more than mention the possibility.

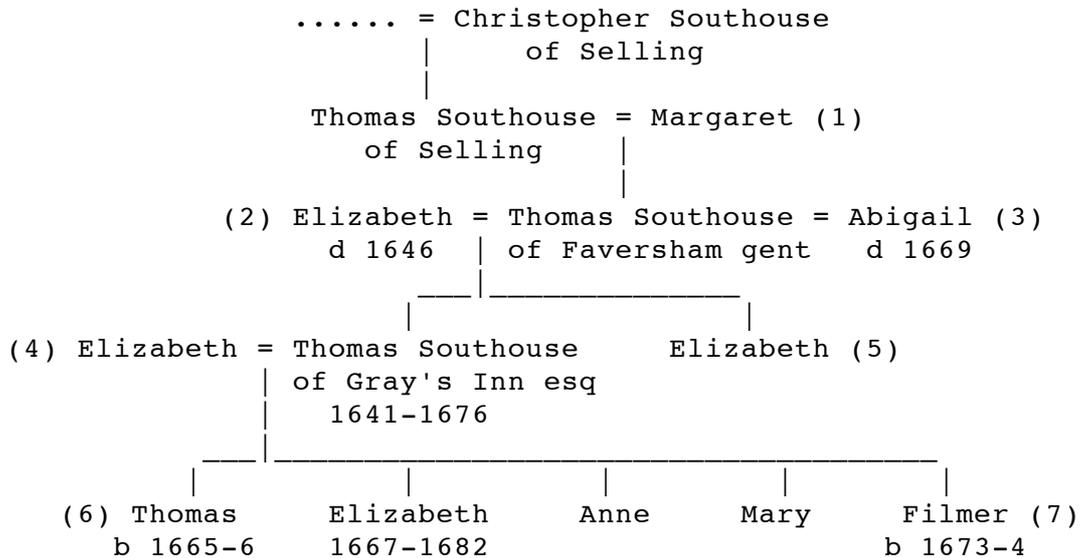
He was succeeded by his son, also Thomas Southland, of whom I know even less, except that he was the man – Sir William's grandson – who sold Lee to Paul Barrett in 1676 (Hasted 9:173). The Mary who married Sir Robert Colbrand was (I suppose) a sister of this Thomas Southland. If Halliwell was right to decipher "T. S." as "Thomas Southland", I take it that this second Thomas would be the likelier candidate. (One can see how the story might be spun: he prefers to stay in London; he sells off the country estate to subsidize his urban lifestyle; he does not even bother to erect a monument for his parents.) But was Halliwell right? Is any of this to the point?

Though Halliwell did not say so, he was in a chronological bind. Who is the "R. Colbrand Baronet" who addressed his poem "to his honoured brother, the author of *Love à la Mode*"? There was no such person, in 1660, when the play was written, or in 1663, when it was published. According to Courthope (1835:47), there were two Colbrand baronets whose christian names began with "R". One was Sir Richard Colbrand, "colonel in the army of king Charles I ... slain in the civil wars"; so he was too early. The other was Sir Robert Colbrand, Mary's husband, who succeeded to the title in 1672; so he was too late. In between those two, the "Colbrand Baronet" was Sir Charles, Richard's brother, Robert's nephew. Evidently there was something wrong somewhere, and Halliwell chose his words carefully: T. Southland, he said, was (probably) "a relative of Sir R. Colbrand, Bart."

There are indeed some errors in Courthope's account. On the evidence of entries in the Tonbridge parish registers, Cokayne (1900:183) was able to determine the dates of death of Richard and Charles Colbrand, and also of their mother Margaret, James's widow. Sir Richard was buried on 14 March 1664, Lady Colbrand on 26 July 1666, Sir Charles on 19 March 1667. This clarifies matters to some extent. The author of the verses in "*Love à la mode*" is evidently Sir Richard Colbrand; but that is bad news for Halliwell's conjecture. If "R." were Robert, "brother" might mean "brother-in-law", and that would be fair enough. Since "R." is actually Richard, the case is hopeless. Even if his uncle Robert's marriage had already taken place (which is doubtful), how could he think of referring to some relative of his uncle's wife as "his honoured brother"? That does not make sense.

Another fact that was noted by Cokayne will point us in the right direction. The register of admissions to Gray's Inn includes the following entry, dated 24 Nov 1660: "Richard Colbrond, Baronet, son and heir of James C., late of Lewes, Sussex, Baronet, deceased" (Foster 1889:290). (This proves, by the way, that Sir James was already dead. The report of his being "slain in the civil wars" is certainly not true for Richard, but it might

perhaps be true for his father.) Four entries and four days later, 28 November, the register has this: "Thomas Southouse, son and heir of Thomas S., of Faversham, Kent, gent." (Foster 1889:290). This has to be the man – this Thomas Southouse, not any Thomas Southland – for whom Colbrand wrote his verses: by calling him "his honoured brother" he meant that they were fellow members of Gray's Inn.



- (1) "Daughter of James Bunce of Ottrinden" (Armytage 1906:153).
- (2) "Daughter of John Crux of Milton" (Armytage 1906:153), "daughter of John Crude of Milton Gent. deceased" (Lewis 1727:13).
- (3) "Daughter of Samuel Haward of the Isle of Hartey" (Armytage 1906:153), "daughter and coheire of Samuel Hayward Esq;" (Lewis 1727:14). Six years after Abigail's death, Thomas Southouse got married again: his third wife was "Mrs. Mary Finch, of Preston, next Feversham aforesaid, widow, <aged> about 50" (Foster 1887:1261). He died in 1687 (as I am informed by Arthur Percival, to whom I am grateful for this and other facts).
- (4) "Elizabeth Filmore, spinster, 23, daughter of Ellinor Filmore, of Sittingbourne, widow", for whose marriage with Thomas Southouse a licence was issued in June 1664 (Foster 1887:1261). Presumably the same Elizabeth Southouse of Faversham whose will was proved in 1685-6.
- (5) Married firstly to John Hulse of Newnham gent, who died "aged not yet 40" in 1681, and secondly to James Dixon esq, the younger son of Robert Dixon prebendary of Rochester (Armytage 1906:49), admitted at St John's College Cambridge in 1662 and at the Middle Temple in 1663 (Al Cantab), called to the bar in 1670. Elizabeth died 5 Sep 1704 and was buried at Newnham with her first husband (Parsons 1794:208-9).
- (6) Called to the bar in 1700 (Foster 1892:1393), d 1702.
- (7) Thomas's younger son, Filmer Southouse, got married in 1696 (Foster 1887:1261) and died in 1706. He "was a man of learning, and studious in his father's line of knowledge" (Hasted 7:46). He published nothing; but his MS collections were used by both Lewis (1727) and Jacob (1774) and are still in existence (CKS-Fa/Z34).

Apart from a few lines in the second edition of Wood's "Athenae Oxonienses" (1721:499) and another few lines in Foster's "Alumni Oxonienses" (1892:1393), I have not seen any biographical account of Thomas Southouse. I know nothing more about him, beyond what can be learned from his gravestone and mural monument in Faversham church (which also has the graves of his mother and stepmother, and of his eldest daughter, who was 9 when her father died). This is the inscription on the gravestone (Lewis 1727:15, Cozens 1793:334):

Here lyeth interred the body of Thomas
Southouse Esq; who deceased the 5th
day of October 1676 aged 35 Yeares
and 6 months, he left issue Thomas,
Filmer, Elizabeth, Anne & Mary.

and this the inscription on the monument close by, put up for him
by his widow (Lewis 1727:14, Cozens 1793:318-19):

M. S.

Juxta hunc parietem deposuit exuvias
Carnis Thomas Southouse Armiger ab antiqua
Stirpe de Southouse de Selling in agro Cantiano, per
connexas propagines successive oriundus, qui
Abbatiam Fauershamiensem inter rudera sua, et
Cineres tabescentem literatis scriptis a macie
temporum asseruit, deinde
in eruendo antiquas quinque portuum immunitates
indagator acerrimus, in enucleando latebrosa
Legum volumina eviscerator assiduus, et in
extricando nodosas juris-prudentiae disceptationes
explorator infractus. Qui postquam alia
politioris literaturae evulgaverat specimina,
Fato inopino correptus, et eodem paulo
post extinctus, eruditam animam Deo
transmisit.
In cujus memoriam Elizabetha
Southouse vidua superstes hoc monumentum
Amoris sui juxta ac doloris tesseractam
Lugens posuit.

In brief, he was born in Apr 1641, presumably in Faversham. He was admitted to Queen's College, Oxford, in Aug 1658, left without taking a degree, and was admitted to Gray's Inn in Nov 1660; he was called to the bar in 1667. Meanwhile he got married, probably in 1664; he and his wife had five children, two boys and three girls. Having published one scholarly book and a number of other pieces, he suddenly fell ill and died in Oct 1676, leaving three research projects uncompleted (one was a study of the franchises of the cinque ports), and was buried in Faversham church.

The fact is, therefore, that we know of a man with the initials "T. S.", alive at just the right time, an exact contemporary of Colbrand's at Gray's Inn, who had some publications to his credit. The "Monasticon Fauershamiense" (1671) is the only book to which

he put his full name; but we have his wife's word for it that he had also published some "specimens of polite literature". Since these "specimens" are not immediately identifiable, we may take it that they were published anonymously or pseudonymously; so we are primed to consider him as a possible author for any piece of lightweight literature published anonymously between about 1660 and 1676. None of this was known to Halliwell. Nothing similar is true for any Thomas Southland.

If anyone wishes to take the inquiry further, these are the publications which will need to be given some attention:

1660 – To the king, upon his majesties happy return (T1496aA) – "By a Person of Honour" – attribution doubtful

1663 – Love à la mode: a comedy (S4771) – "By a Person of HONOUR" – preface signed "T. S." – written in 1660 but not printed till now

1664 – The ungrateful favourite: a tragedy (U63) – "By a Person of Honour" – same motto as Love à la mode

1671 – Monasticon Favershamiense in agro Cantiano: or a surveigh of the monastery of Faversham in the county of Kent (S4772) – "By Tho. Southouse of Greys-Inne Esq;"

1672 – Upon his majesties late declarations for toleration, and publication of war against the Hollander (S186A) – "By T. S. of Grayes-Inne, Esq;"

As far as I know, the fifth item has not been attributed to Southouse (or to Southland) before.

I am happy to let Samuel Pepys have the last word (diary, 19 July 1663). "Then I fell to read over a silly play writ by a person of honour (which is, I find, as much as to say a coxcomb), called 'Love a la Mode,' and that being ended, home, and played on my lute and sung psalms till bedtime, then to prayers and to bed."

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